

law school and the next day walk into a courtroom and try a death penalty case or graduate medical school and immediately walk into an operating room to perform open-heart surgery. Those professions require decades of training post-graduation. Teaching is an equally complex profession, melding academic theory and practice, and carries enormous responsibility for children's personal and our Nation's collective economic future.

But too many teachers are thrown into a classroom with their own students, many with complex social, emotional, and learning needs, without sufficient training or support. And too many leave the profession feeling frustrated, defeated, and disheartened. Studies have shown a connection between support in the first year and teachers' moving between schools and leaving the profession. A helpful mentor, as reported by teachers, significantly reduces the chances of quitting in the first year. Common planning time and collaboration with other teachers are strong predictors of teachers' decisions to stay in a school and the profession.

The higher education amendments will improve teacher quality, training, and retention by promoting high-quality and effective teacher preparation programs for new and prospective teachers, and help high-need schools by focusing on recruiting and retaining high-quality teachers in high-need schools.

The bill creates competitive grants for innovative teacher preparation programs that address the need for stronger teaching methods and better teacher support. The bill provides a competitive grant for college level preparation programs that include evidence-based teaching methods, mentoring programs for the teacher's first 2 years in service—called induction programs—and new accountability measures to allow programs to improve the training offered.

The bill also provides grants to teaching residency programs, programs that provide participants a 1-year stipend to engage in a guided teaching apprenticeship with a master teacher that integrates theory and practice and includes master's degree coursework. These residency programs must place participants in high-needs schools and work with local school districts to develop an induction program to provide continued support to residents once the program ends. These programs must also contain accountability measures methods that allow for program evaluation and improvement.

I want to express my gratitude to Senators KENNEDY and ENZI and the rest of my colleagues on the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee for all their hard work and leadership in bringing such a comprehensive and innovative bill to the floor.

Mr. President, I first ran for elected office in my home State of Maryland at

the age of 22. I sought elected office because I believed that government can make a difference in people's lives. This bill, reauthorizing the Higher Education Act of 1965, does just that, and I am proud to offer my support.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, due to the delay of my flight from Rhode Island, I was unavoidably absent for vote No. 273, the Brown amendment to create a new Federal Supplemental Loan program.

Had I been present, I would have supported the Brown amendment No. 2376. We know that more and more students are taking out private loans with high interest rates. Senator BROWN's amendment seeks to provide an alternative for those students who have exhausted their grant and Stafford loan aid and continue to need assistance in meeting their college cost of attendance. I have heard concern that such a program could provide a disincentive to States to provide additional grant aid, but I believe we must address the fact that too many moderate- and low-income students take out high interest private loans, which creates an unmanageable loan burden for these students and their families. The Brown amendment is an attempt to rectify this situation and although not perfect, it is worthy of inclusion in the committee's deliberation.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, what is the pending order of business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The pending amendment is the Kennedy second-degree amendment to the Coburn amendment.

AMENDMENT NO. 2377

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to return to the amendment I filed earlier.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The amendment is now pending.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask the Chair if there is a pending second-degree amendment by the Senator from Iowa.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is.

Mr. DURBIN. I would say to the Chair, for those Members following, there has been agreement reached, and there will be no objection to the adoption of the second-degree amendment to my amendment and then the adoption of my amendment, both by voice vote.

So at this point, I urge the adoption of the second-degree amendment offered by the Senator from Iowa.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 2380) was agreed to.

Mr. DURBIN. Now, Mr. President, I urge adoption of the Durbin amendment, as amended by the second-degree amendment of the Senator from Iowa.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendment, as amended, is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 2377), as amended, was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2381

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask to return to the pending business before I make my unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate resumes consideration of S. 1642 in the morning, July 24, no amendments other than those in this agreement be in order; that there be 20 minutes of debate time remaining, divided as follows: 10 minutes each for Senators KENNEDY and ENZI; upon the use of that time, the Senate proceed to vote in relation to the Kennedy second-degree amendment, No. 2387; that upon disposition of the Kennedy amendment, if the Kennedy amendment is agreed to, then it be in order for Senator COBURN to offer a further second-degree amendment on the same subject; that there be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote in relation to the Coburn second-degree amendment, if offered, with the time equally divided and controlled in the usual form; that upon disposition of the Coburn second-degree amendment, there be 2 minutes for debate, equally divided, prior to a vote in relation to the Coburn amendment No. 2369, as amended; that upon disposition of the Coburn amendment No. 2369, as amended, if amended, the committee substitute amendment, as amended, be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; the bill be read a third time, and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill without further intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent we proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, tomorrow we will celebrate the first increase in the minimum wage in 10